

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A cosmetic composition comprising:

- (i) from about 0.001 to about 5% by weight of a polysaccharide gum;
- (ii) from about 0.001 to about 10% by weight of a taurate copolymer;
- (iii) from about 0.01 to about 20% by weight of a C₁-C₂₅ alpha-hydroxycarboxylic acid; and
- (iv) a cosmetically acceptable carrier, wherein the composition has a pH of less than 7.

Claim 2 (original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting of xanthan, sclerotium, pectin, karaya, arabic, agar, guar, carrageenan, alginate and combinations thereof.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the taurate copolymer comprises acryloyl dimethyltaurate as a monomer unit.

Claim 4 (original): A composition according to claim 3 wherein the acryloyl dimethyltaurate is copolymerized with a monomer selected from the group consisting of styrene, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, vinyl chloride, vinyl acetate, vinyl pyrrolidone, isoprene, vinyl alcohol, vinyl methylether, chloro-styrene, maleic acid, acrylamide,

methacrylamide and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (original): A composition according to claim 4 wherein the taurate copolymer is acryloyl dimethyltaurate/vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer.

Claim 6 (original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide is xanthan gum and the taurate copolymer is acryloyl dimethyltaurate/vinyl pyrrolidone copolymers.

Claim 7 (original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pH ranges from about 1 to about 6.

Claim 8 (original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pH ranges from 2.5 to 3.8.

Claim 9 (original): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide ranges in amount from about 0.1 to about 2% and the taurate copolymer ranges in amount from about 0.1 to about 5%.

Claim 10 (previously added): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the alpha-hydroxycarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of glycolic acid, lactic acid and 2-hydroxyoctanoic acid.

Claim 11 (previously added): A composition according to claim 1 wherein the pH ranges from 1 to 3.8.

Claim 12 (new): A composition according to claim 1 further comprising glycerin in an amount from 0.5 to 30% by weight of the composition.

Claim 13 (new): A method of stabilizing a water and oil emulsion cosmetic composition to prevent phase separation, method providing a composition comprising:

- (i) from about 0.001 to about 5% by weight of a polysaccharide gum;
- (ii) from about 0.01 to about 20% by weight of a C₁-C₂₅ alpha-hydroxycarboxylic acid; and
- (iii) a cosmetically acceptable carrier, the composition having a pH of less than 7 and adding the taurate copolymer to stabilize the composition against phase separation.

Claim 14 (new): A method according to claim 13 wherein the taurate copolymer is acryloyl dimethyltaurate/vinyl pyrrolidone copolymer.